



CRADA

Understanding Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA) with Federal Laboratories

WHAT is a CRADA?

The most common and flexible way for federal labs to work with the public sector, and vice versa, is through collaborative R&D agreements. The Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) is one of the most significant mechanisms for T2, and through them a federal lab can commit resources such as personnel, facilities, equipment, intellectual property, or other resources—but not funds—to any interested nonfederal party. CRADAs result in more favorable long-term outcomes than any other T2 mechanism.

WHEN is a CRADA appropriate?

If a private entity intends to utilize federal laboratory resources to support the development of new products. This includes ideas, staff, materials, and equipment.

WHO may utilize a CRADA?

Private corporations, nonprofit and not-for-profit institutions, state and local governments, and other federal agencies.

HOW to initiate a CRADA

Typically, the private entity contacts the government agency to execute a non-disclosure agreement to protect existing intellectual property (IP). A statement of work is jointly produced to formalize objectives, scope, approach, schedule, resources, and desired outcomes.

FINALIZING a CRADA

A 30-day period exists to disapprove or modify an agreement. If either party requires changes, partners renegotiate as necessary until approvals are obtained.

WHAT is the duration of a CRADA?

The duration may vary based on the statement of work, but is typically executed over the course of two years. The agreement allows both parties to keep research results confidential for up to five years under the Freedom of Information Act.